

# TORREYA

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## A FOSSIL NUT PINE FROM IDAHO\*

BY F. H. KNOWLTON

Some months ago I received from Mr. Waldemar Lindgren, of the U. S. Geological Survey, a fossil pine cone that had been obtained by one of his associates in the Snake River Valley, near Bernard's Ferry, Idaho. Unfortunately it was not found in posi-

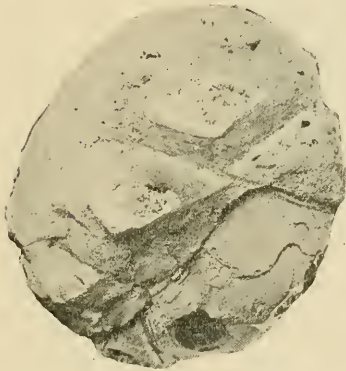


FIG. 1. Lateral view, showing the scales.



FIG. 2. Lateral view, showing scales with seed-cavities at their bases.

tion, having been picked up by a local ranch owner, but with little doubt it is from the Pliocene lake beds that are so abundantly exposed in that vicinity. It is silicified and in general so closely resembles material from the lake beds as to make it reasonably certain that it came from them.

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I propose for this species the name

### **Pinus Lindgrenii**

Cone apparently ovoid or nearly globular in shape; fertile scales very thick, 2 cm. or more broad at apex; nut oblong or obovoid, full and rounded at both ends, about 1.5 cm. long, and 1 cm. or a little less in diameter.

This cone, which is fairly well shown in figures 1, 2 and 3, was, as nearly as can be made out, about 5.5 cm. in length and 4 cm. in diameter. It is irregularly broken through the fertile portion, thus well exposing the large seed-cavities at the base of



FIG. 3. Basal view, showing the large seed-cavities.

the scales. The remaining scales diminish rapidly in size, those at the apex being only 4 or 5 mm. in long diameter. In several of the seed-cavities fragments of the very thin and evidently brittle shell of the seed can still be observed, and in one cavity a brownish, carbonaceous mass appears to represent the seed itself.

So far as I am now aware, this is the first undoubted nut pine to be described in a fossil state from this country. In the compact, almost globular, shape of the cone, this pine seems most closely to resemble *Pinus edulis*, but the size and shape of the scales, and the larger seeds seem to bring it closer to *P. monophylla*. Although having a cone that was apparently little if any larger than the ordinary cones of *P. edulis*, the seeds are noticeably larger than those of either this species or *P. monophylla*. The present range of *P. edulis* covers the general locality where *P.*

*Lindgrenii* was found, while *P. monophylla* occurs more to the southward, yet the conditions during Pliocene times may have been very different, and it is perhaps reasonable to conjecture that this fossil species was the ancestor of *P. monophylla*.

## SOME POPULAR PLANT-NAMES USED IN GEORGIA

BY ROLAND M. HARPER

The following plant-names are a few of those which I have picked up in Georgia during ten years of residence and two summers of travel in the State. Every one is in common use in some part of the State, though many of them have apparently never come to the notice of botanists. They are used by people who have no knowledge of botanical literature, and have never been influenced thereby as have so many of the inhabitants of the northeastern states.

As the customs and dialects of the people vary to a considerable extent in different parts of Georgia, I have thought best to give in connection with each common name the names of one or more counties in which it is in use, so that it may be connected with some definite locality.

It is not claimed that all the following common names are new to science, but most of them have never been reported from Georgia before.

A few words of explanation are given for those names which seem to need it.

*Panicum digitarioides* Carpenter. Maiden cane. Decatur.

*Sporobolus Indicus* (L.) R. Br. Swamp-grass. Mitchell.

This is a rather misleading name.

*Campulosus aromaticus* (Walt.) Trin. Wild ginger. Sumter.

*Smilax laurifolia* L. Bamboo-vine. Sumter.

*Smilax Walteri* Pursh. Sarsaparilla. Sumter, Coffee.

*Myrica cerifera* L. Sweet oak. Sumter.

*Quercus digitata* (Marsh.) Sudw. Red oak. Sumter, Bulloch.

Probably confounded with *Q. rubra*, which is unknown in these counties.